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INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH IN HUMANITIES

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2005

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Research Seminars

KINGSHIP AND RITUAL

(coordinated By M. FUJII, April 2005–May 2009)

This seminar aims to study the relationship between kingship and ritual in different worlds and ages from various angles with collaboration of scholars in many fields including history, archaeology, anthropology, and classical studies of India and China. The seminar consists of two kinds of sessions: readings and forums. At the former sessions, we are engaged in studying and translating the Vedic texts of the Rajasuya, a rite of royal consecration in ancient India, as one of our basic research materials. The latter sessions are open forums where seminar members present papers or reports including results of the reading sessions, and discuss various aspects of kingship and ritual.

STUDY ON ASIAN NETWORKS: REGIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER IN ASIA

(coordinated by N. KAGOTANI, April 2004–March 2007)

In the post-Cold War international relations, the United States, backed by its military power matched by none, exerts significant influence in world affairs, a phenomenon that is recently regarded as the emergence of a new empire. An empire in this case is broadly defined as a transnational regime surpassing nation-states in governance. Still, what is the nature of empires? How do empires keep their governance over territories much larger than nation-states? Scholars need to take a fresh look at these questions that arise from relating systems and dynamics of empires and modern nation-states.

In this research project, we intend to investigate institutions and mechanisms of empires in Asia during three different periods: (1) Chinese empire (17th century to early 19th century); (2) European (primarily British) imperialism (mid-19th century to mid-20th century); (3) American supremacy (from mid-20th century onwards). In examining these three cases, we focus on their relations to the Asian regional economy. The recent scholarship of Asian economic history focuses on the integration of the regional economy dating back to the 17th century. At the same time, a number of scholars observe that the networks of Asian merchants (e.g., Chinese and Indian merchants) have played key roles in directing flows of goods, labor, and capital in the region. How have the business networks safely sustained trade in these three cases? How has the economic order in Asia evolved over the past five hundred years or so? Our working hypotheses are that, on the one hand, empires provide various institutions to enhance intra-regional economic integration in Asia. Some are “soft” infrastructures like the freedom of mercantile activities promised by the Chinese empire, the principle of free trade executed by the British Empire and the United States, and the financial

services offered by British colonial banks. Others are “hard” infrastructures like steamships, railroads, telecommunications, and the Internet. On the other hand, Asian traders, besides their networks to secure safety of economic transactions based upon kinship ties, common languages, and so on, would make the most of the institutions that empires offer. Meanwhile, Asian traders’ networks themselves are transformed over time. In focusing on the interactions between empires as transnational regimes and “business networks” as transnational economic actors, we intend to investigate the Asian regional order and governance from historical perspectives.

BODY AND MODERNITY

(coordinated by A. KIKUCHI, April 2003–March 2006)

Body is a fundamental condition for human life. Therefore, it can be a complex and complicated agenda for humanistic and social scientific inquiries. In this seminar, through the interdisciplinary discussion on body, researchers from a wide variety of disciplines try to find out the liminality and possibility of their own specialties as well as the methods to communicate with researchers of other fields. This will also be useful to account for our academic activities to nonacademic audiences. In this sense, our seminar’s basic stance is “methodological amateurism.”

STUDIES ON MODERN KYOTO

(coordinated by H. MARUYAMA, April 2003–March 2006)

The aim of our study project is to research about modern Kyoto from many-sided phases. We can say that Kyoto is a repository of culture from the viewpoint of cultural heritage. There exist buried seeds of Kyoto culture which seemed to disappear from sight since the Meiji Revolution.

Our cooperative participants consist of researchers who make specialties of Japanese modern history, architectural history, landscape history, human geography, Japanese art history and so on.

Each researcher finds out the seed and reports on a phase of modern Kyoto from a specialist standpoint. We would like to pursue the spirituality of modern Kyoto.

STUDIES IN FICTION AND FICTIONALITY: TOWARDS A GENERAL FICTOLOGY

(coordinated by Y. OURA, April 2005–March 2009)

What is fiction? And fictionality? Between things or phenomena which may be related to these terms in various fields—literary, cinematographic, legal, economic, political, anthropologic, psychologic, etc.—, can we conceive any common denominators, and a logic sustaining them? Some attempts have been made to investigate each of these “fictions” (especially the literary one); almost none to seek an all-embracing approach to them that I would call “general fictology”. That is our concern. This research project will be led in collaboration with the “Projet de GDR” directed by Jean-Marie Schaeffer of the EHESS, Paris.

AN INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDY OF REPRESENTATION AND EXPRESSION OF RACE

(coordinated by Y. TAKEZAWA, April 2003–March 2006)

There has been a consensus among scientists that there is no biological reality of race. Why then does race maintain its social reality so pervasively? This study, following our previous project on the idea of race, aims to examine reality of race in terms of its expression and representation. The research aims to examine not only dominant ideas of race, but also contestation and challenge of racial representations by minorities themselves. Research members use caricatures, advertisements, novels, paintings, oral interviews, scientific writing and other materials to approach this question.

TRANSDISCIPLINARY STUDIES OF FETISHES AND FETISHISM

(coordinated by M. TANAKA, April 2000–March 2006)

This project aims to reconsider socio-historical contexts in which the concept of fetish/fetishism emerged and has developed in the West and beyond. Fetishes were “discovered” in West Africa by Portuguese traders. Fetishism was coined by a French scholar, de Bross in 17th century, and later, in 19th century, led to a heated debate over the origin of religion. It was also used by Marx to characterize the nature of commodities and by Freud for a type of sexual orientation. Fetish/Fetishism is a key concept to understand not only the history of Western social thoughts, but Western views of human-object relationship.

THE ENLIGHTENMENTS AND THEIR VICISSITUDES—A GENEALOGICAL STUDY

(coordinated by S. TOMINAGA, April 2005–March 2008)

“Enlightenment” is not a word that only refers to a tide of philosophy in the 18th century Europe. It is taken to carry an idea of universal value for which it has been pursued throughout the world ever since the French Revolution, while at the same time this very idea has stirred up a series of criticisms. From the latter point of view “Enlightenment” is the key critical concept through which the modern society reflects on itself in the course of its organization and re-organization. Rethinking of “Enlightenment” in this sense by contemporary philosophers such as Habermas, Foucault and Derrida testifies to the importance of this concept in the study of intellectual history or in humanities today, having witnessed “crisis” of the systems and ideals of the modern society and the entrance of so-called “post-modern” conditions.

In this research project we will study the ideas and practices of “Enlightenment” in different countries including not only Western Europe but also Asia, Russia and North and South America, with research members from disciplines such as philosophy, sociology, literature, art and history of science. This study aims to present a comprehensive historical perspective that permits to grasp the multidimensionality this concept showed in modern history and then to propose what, and how, we can take over from the history.

A STUDY OF FRANCO-JAPANESE CULTURAL RELATIONS

(coordinated by H. USAMI, April 2002–March 2006)

This four-year-long project aims to reconsider concretely the cultural interaction between Japan and France from a synthetic perspective, attaching importance to the interchange between people and materials. “What was France for the Japanese and what was Japan for the French?” This is our central interest, shared by all the participants in this seminar from various disciplines, not only French literature or arts, but also the comparative history of Japanese and Occidental arts, Japanese cultural history, Japanese modern history, the comparative history of civilizations, sociology and the history of religion. Along with French researchers of Japanese studies who live in Japan, we have several overseas collaborators. The period covered is from the end of the Edo period to the end of the World War II, which corresponds, in France, the period of the Second Empire and the Third Republic.

RETRIAL OF SPACE

(coordinated by S. YAMAMURO, April 2004–March 2007)

This interdisciplinary seminar is working on reintroducing dynamics of the diverse types of material and mental spaces into our knowledge to reconstruct and reintegrate modern humanities and social science, which have been mainly based and understood on time series. In the seminar spaces are analysed not only as fields divided by natural environment and products of interaction and negotiation between different groups using the borders to create power relations and hierarchies. But also spaces are addressed as terms of discourse existing at the level of various ideas and symbolic forms, representing academic and non-academic narratives of both visible and invisible lines, and part of the international geopolitical landscape, the nation and nation-state system, and regional and local life. Revisiting to the fields in which spaces have been perceived and originated, we should also consider spaces as dynamic phenomena in their own right and approach to them historically and comparatively in term of the establishing process of modern European knowledge and the introductions, acceptances, circulations, and appropriations of it outside Europe.

LANGUAGE AND CIVILISATION

(coordinated by T. YOKOYAMA, April 2002–March 2007)

When human societies move from the stage of mere stability to that of civilisation, it seems that language, while itself undergoing profound changes, plays a significant role. The seminar intends to clarify modes of relationship between language and civilisation by transdisciplinary discussion of notable cases in pre-modern East Asian and West European societies.

The participants in this seminar, ranging in their disciplines from the humanities to ecology, share the idea that since the Industrial Revolution, no civilisation/bunmei in the classical sense of the word has come into being in human history, and that the quality of language will matter more than ever for the civilising process.

The problem today is that the seeds of global social stability and even of future civilisation have been sown in the form of new taboos, produced by cutting-edge science and technology, while at the same time the overspecialisation of human activities seems to lead to a gradual

decline in the power of language, changing any new trend towards stability or civilisation into one of stagnation. The seminar will meet fortnightly with such concerns in mind.

SOURCES OF ANCIENT CHINESE HISTORY

(coordinated by T. ASAHARA, April 2004–March 2007)

This is an introductory seminar for the willing members who wish to study ancient Chinese history, especially of the pre-Qin period. Reading basic articles or historical sources, the members will develop their understanding and increase their knowledge. They are also expected to help each other to do so.

PARAMARTHA (ZHENDI) AND HIS TIMES

(coordinated by T. FUNAYAMA, April 2005–March 2010)

This research seminar focuses on Paramartha alias Zhendi (sixth century CE), investigating his geographical movements, his identity and significance as a Buddhist monk, his historical contexts, and various religious phenomena pertaining to his career and work. Paramartha, who is counted by the tradition as one of the “four great translators” of Indic Buddhist works into Chinese, has a complex Buddhist identity. He had close ties with the Sammitiya School of Buddhism; he placed great importance on the *Abhidharmakosa* of the Sarvastivada School in doctrinal matters; moreover, as an adherent of the Mahayana, he also propounded Vijnaptimatra (“consciousness only” or “mere representation”) thought. In this research group, we will focus our attention particularly on commentaries composed by Paramartha himself during the process of translation, along with the collection and interpretation of fragments of his otherwise lost works preserved in later texts. Through these activities we will attempt to arrive at new insights into Paramartha’s activities from the perspectives of both Indian and Chinese Buddhism.

STONE INSCRIPTIONS IN THE NORTHERN DYNASTIES

(coordinated by R. INAMI, April 2005–March 2010)

In this seminar, we will analyze the rubbings of inscriptions in the Northern Dynasties, which our Institute possesses. At first, we check Chinese characters on the rubbings precisely, and then comment on it based on a traditional method. About missing parts, we refer to precedent studies.

LEGAL INSTITUTION IN YUAN PERIOD

(coordinated by S. IWAI, April 2004–March 2007)

“Da Yuan Shengzheng Guozhao Dianzhang (大元聖政國朝典章)” is well-known as the most important source of the legal system of Yuan period. Institute for Research in Humanities organized a study project headed by Professor Takeo Abe and his colleagues about half a century ago. This project published a revised edition of volumes 39–57 relating to criminal law of “Yuan Dianzhang (元典章)” and indexes that covered the whole volumes. We now

restart to study this material, especially on ceremonial protocols, education system and religious policy. Furthermore we have made a system for searching and viewing of this book on network. Revised electronic text will be prepared in the term of our study.

STUDIES ON THE ENCYCLOPEDIA FOR DAILY LIFE IN RECENT CHINA

(coordinated by B. KIN, April 2004–March 2006)

This will be an investigation of one of the most important encyclopedias for daily life in Yuan and Ming dynasties, SHILINGUANGJI 事林廣記.

SOCIAL SYSTEM OF THE 20TH CENTURY CHINA

(coordinated by T. MORI, April 2003–March 2008)

Research groups of Modern China used to consider the period from the 19th century to the first half of the 20th century as their main object. Since historical-record's public presentation progresses in archives of various parts of China and field survey of various forms is also conducted now, it has become time now to extend the period of interest to include the time after the foundation of the People's Republic of China, that is the second half of the 20th century. Being conscious of this present condition, this research group aims at considering change of the social system within this 100 years [from the last years of the Qing Dynast to now] from various sides, such as politics, economy, society, and culture. At present, about 50 scholars studying modern China gather, and research is advanced.

A STUDY OF CHINESE MIRRORS

(coordinated by H. OKAMURA, April 2005–March 2010)

Chinese bronze mirrors are highly appreciated by archaeologists of China and Japan, for they are eminently useful for study of chronology. Besides the design proper, there are inscriptions on a great many mirrors in Han age.

The mirror inscriptions have not quite been the subjects of a comprehensive study, because the content and the language of the inscriptions are sometimes very difficult of analysis. To make a concordance of all the inscriptions known so far, we are reading B. Karlgren's "EARLY CHINESE MIRROR INSCRIPTIONS" (BMFEA, No. 6, 1934) at first.

A STUDY OF THE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN CONFUCIANISM, BUDDHISM AND TAOISM (II)

(coordinated by K. MUGITANI, April 2005–March 2010)

The relation between Confucianism, Buddhism and Taoism is one of the most important subjects in the Chinese history of thought. Especially in the Tang dynasty, Confucians, Buddhists and Taoists had many heated controversies, and influenced each other in that process. This project aims to clarify the relationships between Confucianism, Buddhism and Taoism in the Tang dynasty by analyzing some typical treatises on the defense of Buddhism.

A SYNTHETIC STUDY OF CHINESE PAINTING

(coordinated by H. SOFUKAWA, April 2005–March 2009)

In late years the materials of Chinese painting follows a course of increase more and more, by an appearance of the ancient times/middle ages work based on archeological excavation and a disclosure of early modern times work doing spreading. But it is the present conditions that most are similar as non-digestion, and is left unattended. At first, for this enormous materials, systematic rearranging by a database and approach from many aspects are demanded. We collect materials as much as possible and consider it from the viewpoint of style theory, iconology, theory on paintings, technique, patron and collection. We add approach from aspects such as calligraphy, poetry more and try a synthetic study.

A STUDY OF WANG XUANCE

(coordinated by T. TAKATA, April 2002–March 2006)

Wang Xuance was sent to India as a diplomat three (or four) times around the middle of the 7th century. He brought back new information about India, where some changes had occurred after the time of Xuanzang. His travels were especially important because they opened a new route between China and India by way of Tibet and Nepal. Although the travel account which he wrote was now lost and can only be found fragmentarily in some old books, epigraphic texts concerned with this figure have recently been found one after another in Tibet and Longmen. In this research seminar, we will collect all the materials about Wang Xuance and investigate them from the point of view of Sino-Western cultural contact.

A STUDY OF THE SCIENTIFIC THOUGHT BASED ON YIN-YANG 陰陽 AND WUXING 五行

(coordinated by T. TAKEDA, April 2004–March 2009)

Yin-Yang and Wuxing is one of the fundamental theories of Chinese thoughts and sciences. In various fields, such as astronomy, medicine, chemistry, pharmacy, alchemy, astrology, literature and art, it was broadly used for explanations of various phenomena and proofs of hypothesis. Until now lots of researches have discussed about its origin and its effect on political thoughts of Han dynasty. However, its development after medieval times has been seldom referred. So we take up ISHINPO 医心方 and WUXING-DAYI 五行大義 for the synthetic study of Yin-Yang and Wuxing. These two books contain a lot of valuable materials that had been lost in China. By analyzing various aspects of Yin-Yang and Wuxing, we will try to find out the role it has played in Chinese culture and to clarify its theoretical characteristics.

THE LIVING SPACE AND DESIGN IN CHINA

(coordinated by T. TANAKA, April 2005–March 2010)

On the actual phases of daily life in China from the pre-modern times, we have very few knowledge, in particular concerning to the dwelling houses, garden, interior and design of the inner and outer space, as well as the ritual in the palace and dwelling houses. We are

intending to explain the characteristics of the living space in the traditional China, by the methods of philology and field survey both, actually of the history of architecture and garden design, also of folklore and ethnology as well. At the moment, we are reading the chapter 38 on the architecture of the dictionary *Tong Ya* 通雅 by Fang Yizhi 方以智 (from 1667 of the early Qing dynasty). Not only the discussion at meetings of every other week, but also we would often go outside of the institute to several points of restoration spots of the ancient buildings around Kyoto-Nara area to learn the actual technology.

MARKUP—THEORY AND PRACTICE

(coordinated by C. WITTERN, April 2004–March 2006)

Electronic text—in this context this is considered to be primarily a digital recreation of a text that has been handed down to us in print—has become widely used in recent years and it is reasonable to assume that its role will even further increase in years to come. Since electronic text is thus becoming a major resource for researchers, it is necessary to investigate its actual and possible uses for scholars in the Humanities, especially in the East-Asian Studies and neighbouring fields.

This research seminar was thus started with the aim to look at both the theoretical foundations and implications of recreating texts in a digital medium, and at the practical implementations, technologies and methods that are currently used to create electronic texts. The main focus lies on markup technologies, which constitute the most advanced and most widely employed theoretical and technical framework, yet many of its implications are not yet fully understood and need to be carefully analyzed as they are applied to text with ideographic characters.

CONSTRUCTING 漢字-INFORMATICS

(coordinated by K. YASUOKA, April 2004–March 2007)

In the field of informatics nowadays a text is treated as a one-dimensional stream of characters. But a real text, especially written in 漢字 characters, is not such easy material. It includes a mass of non-linear things, for examples, 版心, 割注, or ルビ, that we hardly convolute within a one-dimensional stream. This means that the treatment of text, in Informatics hitherto, is not suitable for processing East-Asian texts. In this seminar we investigate a model to manipulate East-Asian texts and we will construct new Informatics for 漢字 characters.

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The Documentation and Information Center for Chinese Studies (DICCS) was established in April 2000 by a reorganization of the former Documentation Center for Oriental Studies.

The overall mission of the DICCS is to carry out information science research on Chinese characters and to make accessible to researchers historical materials in the Chinese language through new media. A variety of databases are being constructed. *The Annual Bibliography of Oriental Studies* has long been published in book form and is now also available on the Web.